

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2012

Members in Attendance: Mike Rademacher, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, Molly Flueckiger, Kerrie Fallon, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James, John Thompson

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4 pm

1. Meeting minutes from 9/19/12 reviewed and accepted with correction (Grafton St to be removed, Jack to fix for official notes)

2. Curb Cut Ramp Project

The contractor for next phase is having trouble with scheduling. May be able to get some of the work done this fall, but may need to wait until spring. If work is to be done this fall, it will likely be on Medford St.

3. Sidewalk Repair on Academy St.

Work on the sidewalks and the street has started. Wire cut bricks on a concrete base were installed. Barbara Cutler had placed a call into Jack regarding her frustration with the brick and may write a letter to the Advocate. She wanted to know the Commission's stance on the brick sidewalk replacement.

At a selectman's meeting some years ago bricks in town were discussed. It is believed that they may have said that no more bricks would be used in town. Question of whether the selectmen were supposed to put together a policy and it fell through.

Background: Mike explained the process of using brick and what type. The area surrounding Town Hall is considered a 'historic block'. Apparently a permit was generated years ago regarding preservation of the historic nature of this particular block. No one on this Commission has seen this permit.

Concern was brought up by Barbara and members of the commission regarding potential use of brick for the Mass Ave Corridor Project. Mike reports that if it is to be used it will only be in decorative area, but it will likely be fake brick and/decorative markings in cement.

****Jack to ask for a copy of the permit regarding the historic block for our files. That way we will be able to use it as reference to town people that may call in regarding complaints.**

****Jack to look for selectmen minutes regarding conversation at a meeting of town no longer using bricks.**

The Commission will use the information gathered to organize what we are going to do and how to move forward regarding this issue.

4. Other Public Works Projects

- a. Downing Square- the contractor is on board. Agreed hours to work (9-2:30). May start preliminary work and then in spring/summer the work will be finished. Plan includes decreasing crossing distances and putting in curb cut ramps. No lights will be put in as it would back up traffic to Mass Ave. Couldn't fit a rotary.
- b. Mass Ave area between Foodmaster and Brattle St. has been paved and curb cuts installed.
- c. Broadway Plaza plan- appears to have been stalled. No current movement on this plan. Members discussing multiple problems regarding accessibility at bus stop, crossing location and bricks.
****Heidi to call MBTA to follow up regarding 87 bus line stop, as it has been an issue with accessibility at that location.**
- d. Parks and Rec- Dog Park: Still waiting for new surface to come in and to arrange the temporary shutdown of the park.

5. Town Website

Plan to make the Commission of Disability easier to find on town website. Discussion of setting up location on website for town members to enter issues regarding disabilities. Updating the Commission of Disability page was discussed.

6. Town Master Plan

Meeting tonight at 7pm. It will be set up as round table discussion. Info regarding the meeting handed out to commission members.

7. Other Business

- a. Greg Ames (Mass Rehab Commission)- job fair to take place in April. We had a discussion about our involvement. Our sponsorship will open up ability for town hall space and parking. 20-30 employers involved last year. Vision 2020 has been involved in the past.
- b. Lack of Handicap Parking at Arlington High School, it has been an issue for community members that enroll in Community Education classes. Also there is no curb cut near the accessible entrance. There is also not an automatic door.
****Jack to follow up with principal.**
- c. Snow and ice removal discussed
- d. We discussed getting together a how to info source: affordable/accessible housing, home loans for repairs and lottery of accessible and affordable apartments at the new Mill St. complex.
- e. Kerrie took pictures of John and his Dog with people during town day, she will send pictures to Jack.

- f. Ideas to explore: develop friends of the Commission, set up non-profit to raise money, send out newsletter, outreach/network.
- g. Election day voting accessibility. Fox library has been a problem in the past. Ideas to make signs for each precinct to promote the accessible entrance at each site. Will also serve as a reminder to volunteers to be accommodating to people with disabilities on voting day.

Next Meeting set for November 14, 2012 (note date change)

****Items to be added to agenda next month:**

Talk about strategic planning meeting, ways to be more active as a commission.

What are our goals? What are our plans? What are our passions (individually)?

Develop idea project book- to not lose focus on project ideas.

New members can get business cards to hand out- makes us more visible and tangible within the community.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm